

## **James Oronoco Dexter (Example Biography and Resource Information)**

James Oronoco Dexter lived at 5<sup>th</sup> Street between Arch and Race Streets. Oronoco lived there with 6 other people. The house was 2 stories high, built of brick, and was very plain. The house was new when Oronoco moved into it in 1790. He lived there until 1798. The house no longer stands. It was torn down by 1857.

Early in his life Oronoco had been held in slavery by Henry Dexter. Henry Dexter gave Oronoco to his son James. In 1767, Oronoco bought his freedom. He also bought the freedom of a young woman named Priss in the same year. Oronoco and Priss were married soon after.

Oronoco was a member of a new church just established by Absalom Jones. He hosted a meeting with the elders and deacons at his house. And he served on a committee to plan the building of the church.

Oronoco made his living as a coachman. He worked for a Quaker named John Pemberton. Oronoco drove the Pembertons and their friends in their horse drawn coach.

Look at the documents for more clues about James Oronoco Dexter's life.